**Amendment in rape laws**

3192. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press report which appeared in Hindu dated 3rd December, 2002, under the heading, "Report on overhaul of rape laws gathering dust";

(b) if so, whether an overhaul of the rape law is not just the demand of women's organizations and recomendation of the Law Commission of India, even Government's task force advocated several changes in the rape laws as recently as April, 2002;

(c) if so, to what extent Government have examined various points raised in the press report; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to implement the rape laws, pending for action?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Law Commission of India, in its 172nd Report on 'Review of Rape Laws' recommended changes in the Indian Penal Code, 1860, the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 to deal with sexual offences more effectively.

The State Governments have been requested to furnish their views on the recommendations of Law Commission of India as the Criminal Law and Criminal procedure are on the Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India.

**Navodaya Vidyalayas in Uttaranchal**

†3193. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of districts in Uttaranchal where Navodaya Vidyalayas have not been opened yet; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.